AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following amendments:

1. (Currently Amended) A non-volatile semiconductor recording medium ~~of non-volatile semiconductor~~ comprising:

a plurality of erasing blocks, each erasing block being a first size and physically erasable as a single unit;

a partition management information region; and

a partition region, wherein

an information on a start position of the partition region is recorded in the partition management information region,

the start position information includes a value at which a predetermined region is secured between a terminal end of the partition management information region and a starting end of the partition region, and

the region secured between the terminal end of the partition management information region and the starting end of the partition region is larger than the first size and is in a state where data is physically erased.

2. (Currently Amended) A <u>non-volatile semiconductor</u> recording medium ~~of non-volatile semiconductor~~ comprising:

a partition management information region; ~~and N pieces (N is an integer at least two) of~~

a <u>first</u> partition ~~regions,~~ <u>region; and</u>

<u>a second partition region located after the first partition region;</u> wherein

<u>a single address space includes a first address value corresponding to the beginning of the</u> <u>first partition region, a second address value corresponding to the terminal end of the first</u> <u>partition region, and a third address value corresponding to the beginning of the second partition</u> <u>region;</u>

~~an information on start positions of the N pieces of partition regions~~ <u>the first and third</u> <u>address values are</u> recorded in the partition management information region[[,]]<u>;</u>

<u>the second and third address values are not consecutive, and are separated by at least</u> <u>three consecutive address values corresponding to a switch region located between the first and</u> <u>second partition regions; and</u>

~~the start position information includes a value at which a predetermined region is secured~~ ~~between a terminal end of the (N-1)th partition region and a starting end of the Nth partition~~ ~~region, and~~

the <u>switch</u> region ~~secured between the terminal end of the (n-1)th partition region and the~~ ~~starting end of the nth partition region is in a state where data~~ is physically erased.

3. (Currently Amended) A <u>non-volatile semiconductor</u> recording medium ~~of non-volatile semiconductor in which~~ comprising:

<u>a plurality of erasing blocks, each erasing block being of a first size and physically erasable as a single unit; wherein</u>

information is recorded according to a recording format of a predetermined file system,

a region which is not used for the recording is <u>larger than the first size and is</u> included in the recording format of the file system, and

the region which is not used for the recording is in a state where data is physically erased.

4. (Currently Amended) A <u>non-volatile semiconductor</u> recording medium ~~of non-volatile semiconductor in which information is recorded according to a recording format of~~ <u>comprising:</u>

<u>a partition management information region;</u>

<u>and a partition containing a</u> FAT file system[[,]]<u>;</u> wherein

<u>an information on a start position of the partition is recorded in the partition management information region;</u>

<u>the partition comprises</u> a partition boot information region and a file allocation table region<u>;</u> ~~are included,~~

an information on a <u>plural</u> number of reserved sectors<u>, the reserved sectors being positioned in the partition between the partition boot information region and a starting end of the file allocation table region,</u> is recorded in the partition boot information region[[,]]<u>; and</u>

~~the information on the number of the reserved sectors includes a value at which a predetermined region is secured between a terminal end of the partition boot information region and a starting end of the file allocation table region, and~~

the region secured between the terminal end of the partition boot information region and the starting end of the file allocation table region is in a state where data is physically erased.

5. (Currently Amended) A <u>non-volatile semiconductor</u> recording medium ~~of non-volatile-semiconductor in which information is recorded according to a recording format of~~ <u>comprising:</u>

<u>a partition management information region; and</u>

<u>a partition containing a</u> UDF file system, wherein

<u>an information on a start position of the partition is recorded in the partition management information region,</u>

<u>the partition comprises</u> a partition descriptor information region and a space bit map region ~~are included,~~

an information on a start position of the space bit map region is recorded in the partition descriptor information region,

the start position information includes a value at which a predetermined region <u>of a plurality of memory blocks included in the partition</u> is secured prior to a starting end of the space bit map region, and

the region secured prior to the starting end of the space bit map region is in a state where data is physically erased.

6. (Currently Amended) A <u>non-volatile semiconductor</u> recording medium ~~of non-volatile semiconductor~~ in which information is recorded according to a recording format of FAT file system, wherein

a user data region comprising a plurality of clusters and a file allocation table region are included <u>in the FAT file system</u>[[,]]<u>;</u>

an information on a state of each cluster in the user data region is recorded in the file allocation table region[[,]]<u>;</u>

<u>the file allocation table region indicates that a continuous series of at least three clusters each has a state</u> ~~the state information includes a~~ value indicating [[if]] a ~~particular~~ cluster is <u>not</u> <u>to be written to because it is</u> a defective cluster, a reserved cluster<u>,</u> or an already-used cluster[[,]]<u>;</u> and

a region ~~of the cluster~~ of the user data region corresponding to the ~~particular cluster of the state information is in a state where data~~ <u>continuous series of at least three clusters</u> is physically erased.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of recording information in a non-volatile semiconductor recording medium of non-volatile semiconductor, said recording medium comprising a plurality of erasing blocks, each erasing block being a first size and physically erasable as a single unit, wherein

a partition management information region and a partition region are set in the recording medium of non-volatile semiconductor,;

an information on a start position of the partition region is recorded in the partition management information region, and a value at which a predetermined region is secured between a terminal end of the partition management information region and a starting end of the partition region is recorded as the start position information[[,]]; and

the region secured between the terminal end of the partition management information region and the starting end of the partition region is larger than the first size and is in a state where data is physically erased.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of recording information in a non-volatile semiconductor recording medium of non-volatile semiconductor, wherein

a partition management information region, and an N pieces (N is an integer at least two) of a first partition regions region, and a second partition region located after the first partition region are set in the recording medium; of non-volatile semiconductor, wherein

a single address space includes a first address value corresponding to the beginning of the first partition region, a second address value corresponding to the terminal end of the first partition region, and a third address value corresponding to the beginning of the second partition region;

~~an information on start positions of the N pieces of partition regions is~~ the first and third address values are recorded in the partition management information region[[,]]; ~~and a value at which a predetermined region is secured between a terminal end of the (N-1)th partition region and a starting end of the Nth partition region is recorded as the start position information, and~~

the second and third address values are not consecutive, and are separated by at least three consecutive address values corresponding to a switch region located between the first and second partition regions; and

the switch region ~~secured between the terminal end of the (N-1)th partition region and the starting end of the Nth partition region is in a state where data~~ is physically erased.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of recording information in a non-volatile semiconductor recording medium ~~of non-volatile semiconductor~~ according to a predetermined file system, said recording medium comprising a plurality of erasing blocks, each erasing block being a first size and physically erasable as a single unit, wherein

a region which is not used for the recording is larger than the first size and is set in a recording format of the file system in the recording medium of non-volatile semiconductor, and

the region which is not used for the recording is in a state where data is physically erased.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of recording information in a <u>non-volatile</u> <u>semiconductor</u> recording medium ~~of non-volatile semiconductor according to FAT file system~~, wherein

<u>a partition management information region and a partition containing a FAT file system</u> <u>are set in the recording medium;</u>

<u>an information on a start position of the partition is recorded in the partition management</u> <u>information region;</u>

<u>the partition comprises</u> a partition boot information region and a file allocation table region ~~are set in the recording medium of non-volatile semiconductor~~,

an information on <u>a plural</u> number of reserved sectors<u>, the reserved sectors being</u> <u>positioned in the partition between the partition boot information region and a starting end of the</u> <u>file allocation table region,</u> is recorded in the partition boot information region, and ~~a value at~~ ~~which a predetermined region is secured between a terminal end of the partition boot information~~ ~~region and a starting end of the file allocation table region is recorded as the information on the~~ ~~number of the reserved sectors, and~~

the region secured between the terminal end of the partition boot information region and the starting end of the file allocation table region is in a state where data is physically erased.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of recording information in a <u>non-volatile</u> <u>semiconductor</u> recording medium ~~of non-volatile semiconductor according to UDF file system~~, wherein

<u>a partition management information region and a partition containing a UDF file system</u> <u>are set in the recording medium;</u>

<u>an information on a start position of the partition is recorded in the partition management</u> <u>information region;</u>

<u>the partition comprises</u> a partition descriptor information region and a space bit map region<u>;</u> ~~are set in the recording medium of non-volatile semiconductor~~,

an information on a start position of the space bit map region is recorded in the partition descriptor information region, and a value at which a predetermined region <u>of a plurality of</u> <u>memory blocks included in the partition</u> is secured prior to a starting end of the space bit map region is recorded as the start position information[[,]]<u>;</u> and

the region secured prior to the starting end of the space bit map region is in a state where data is physically erased.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of recording information in a <u>non-volatile</u> <u>semiconductor</u> recording medium ~~of non-volatile semiconductor~~ according to <u>a recording format</u> <u>of</u> FAT file system, wherein

a user data region comprising a plurality of clusters and a file allocation table region are ~~set in the recording medium of non-volatile semiconductor,~~ <u>included in the FAT file system;</u>

an information on a state of each cluster in the user data region is recorded in the file allocation table region, ~~and~~ <u>the file allocation table region indicates that a continuous series of at</u>

least three clusters each has a state value indicating [[if]] a ~~particular~~ cluster is not to be written

to because it is a defective cluster, a reserved cluster, or an already-used cluster; ~~is recorded as~~

~~the state information,~~ and

a region ~~of the cluster~~ of the user data region corresponding to the ~~particular cluster of the~~

~~state information is in a state where data~~ continuous series of at least three clusters is physically

erased.

13. (Currently Amended) An information recording format for a non-volatile

semiconductor recording medium ~~of non-volatile semiconductor~~, said recording medium

comprising a plurality of erasing blocks, each erasing block being a first size and physically

erasable as a single unit, wherein

a partition management information region and a partition region are set in the recording

medium; ~~of non-volatile semiconductor,~~

an information on a start position of the partition region is recorded in the partition

management information region[[,]];

the start position information includes a value at which a predetermined region is secured

between a terminal end of the partition management information region and a starting end of the

partition region[[,]]; and

the region secured between the terminal end of the partition management information

region and the starting end of the partition region is larger than the first size and is in a state

where data is physically erased.

14. (Currently Amended) An information recording format for a <u>non-volatile</u> <u>semiconductor</u> recording medium ~~of non-volatile semiconductor~~, wherein

a partition management information region<u>,</u> ~~and N pieces (N is an integer at least two) of~~ a <u>first</u> partition ~~regions~~ <u>region, and a second partition region located after the first partition</u> <u>region</u> are set in the recording medium<u>;</u> ~~of non-volatile semiconductor,~~

<u>a single address space includes a first address value corresponding to the beginning of the</u> <u>first partition region, a second address value corresponding to the terminal end of the first</u> <u>partition region, and a third address value corresponding to the beginning of the second partition</u> <u>region;</u>

~~an information on start positions of the N pieces of partition regions is~~ <u>the first and third</u> <u>address values are</u> recorded in the partition management information region[[,]]<u>;</u>

~~the start position information includes a value at which a predetermined region is secured~~ ~~between a terminal end of the (N-1)th partition region and a starting end of the Nth partition~~ ~~region, and~~

<u>the second and third address values are not consecutive, and are separated by at least</u> <u>three consecutive address values corresponding to a switch region located between the first and</u> <u>second partition regions; and</u>

the <u>switch</u> region ~~secured between the terminal end of the (n-1)th partition region and the~~ ~~starting end of the nth partition region is in a state where data~~ is physically erased.

15. (Currently Amended) An information recording format for a non-volatile semiconductor recording medium of non-volatile semiconductor in recording information according to a predetermined file system, said recording medium comprising a plurality of erasing blocks, each erasing block being a first size and physically erasable as a single unit, wherein

a region which is not used for the recording is larger than the first size and is set in a recording format of the file system in the recording medium of non-volatile semiconductor, and

the region which is not used for the recording is in a state where data is physically erased.

16. (Currently Amended) An information recording format for a non-volatile semiconductor recording medium of non-volatile semiconductor in recording information according to FAT file system, wherein

a partition management information region and a partition containing a FAT file system are set in the recording medium;

an information on a start position of the partition is recorded in the partition management information region;

the partition comprises a partition boot information region and a file allocation table region; are set in the recording medium of non-volatile semiconductor,

an information on a plural number of reserved sectors, the reserved sectors being positioned in the partition between the partition boot information region and a starting end of the file allocation table region, is recorded in the partition boot information region[[,]]; and

~~information on the number of the reserved sectors includes a value at which a~~

~~predetermined region is secured between a terminal end of the partition boot information region~~

~~and a starting end of the file allocation table region, and~~

the region secured between the terminal end of the partition boot information region and

the starting end of the file allocation table region is in a state where data is physically erased.

17. (Currently Amended) An information recording format for a <u>non-volatile</u>

<u>semiconductor</u> recording medium ~~of non-volatile semiconductor in recoding information~~

~~according to UDF file system~~, wherein

<u>a partition management information region and a partition containing a UDF file system</u>

<u>are set in the recording medium,</u>

<u>an information on a start position of the partition is recorded in the partition management</u>

<u>information region,</u>

<u>the partition comprises</u> a partition descriptor information region and a space bit map

region ~~are set in the recording medium of non-volatile semiconductor~~,

an information on a start position of the space bit map region is recorded in the partition

descriptor information region,

the start position information includes a value at which a predetermined region <u>of a</u>

<u>plurality of memory blocks included in the partition</u> is secured prior to a starting end of the space

bit map region, and

the region secured prior to the starting end of the space bit map region is in a state where

data is physically erased.

18. (Currently Amended) An information recording format for a <u>non-volatile</u> <u>semiconductor</u> recording medium ~~of non-volatile semiconductor~~ in recording information according to <u>a recording format of</u> FAT file system, wherein

a user data region comprising a plurality of clusters and a file allocation table region are ~~set in the recording medium of non-volatile semiconductor,~~ <u>included in the FAT file system;</u>

an information on a state of each cluster in the user data region is recorded in the file allocation table region[[,]]<u>;</u>

the <u>file allocation table region indicates that a continuous series of at least three clusters</u> <u>each has a</u> state ~~information includes a~~ value indicating [[if]] a ~~particular~~ cluster is <u>not to be</u> <u>written to because it is</u> a defective cluster, a reserved cluster<u>,</u> or an already-used cluster[[,]]<u>;</u> and

a region ~~of the cluster~~ of the user data region corresponding to the ~~particular cluster of the~~ ~~state information is in a state where data~~ <u>continuous series of at least three clusters</u> is physically erased.